

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5123

As of January 21, 2011

Title: An act relating to the institute of forest resources.

Brief Description: Regarding the institute of forest resources.

Sponsors: Senators Ranker, Morton and Hargrove.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Natural Resources & Marine Waters: 1/20/11.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES & MARINE WATERS

Staff: Sherry McNamara (786-7402)

Background: In 1947 the Legislature created The Institute of Forest Products under the Department of Conservation and Development. The Legislature transferred the administration of the institute to the Board of Regents of the University of Washington in 1959. In 1979 it was renamed the Institute of Forest Resources and was responsible for pursuing research and education related to forest resources and its multiple uses, including its conservation, management, and utilization.

Summary of Bill: The scope of the Institute of Forest Resources is broadened to provide a framework for prioritizing and conducting interdisciplinary research on critical forest issues. The Director of the University of Washington's School of Forest Resources must coordinate and integrate the existing cooperatives and research centers.

The Director of the School of Forest Resources may appoint an 11 member policy advisory board. Membership on the board must broadly represent various interests including state and federal governments, environmental organizations, local communities, the timber industry, and tribes.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 14, 2011.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This bill updates and clarifies the Institute's mission and focuses on 21st century natural resource issues. It promotes administrative efficiencies and collaboration between the research centers and cooperatives. This bill will help ensure that the Institute continues to undertake research to provide new scientific information critical to the state's forest sector. It is important for our state and in particular, the University of Washington, to continue to have an undergraduate forestry program which is vital in educating and training a high quality workforce.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Bruce Bare, Tom Hinckley, University of Washington; Debora Munguia, Washington Forest Protection Association.